

August 22, 1966

John W. Macy, Jr.  
Chairman United States  
Civil Service Commission  
1900 E Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20415

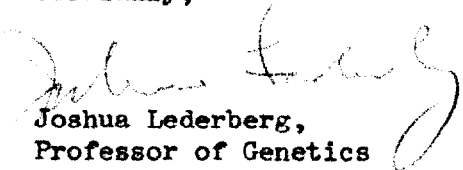
Dear Mr. Macy:

May I impose on you for some detailed information about the racial survey which seems to be in force with respect to federal employment. I am particularly interested in the criterion by which race is defined and the realities of the freedom of affiliation of any individual human being without subtle influences from a system intrenched in law.

I am afraid that I slipped in referring to Representative Rankin in my column when I must have had Senator Ervin in mind.

The dilemma that I would agree we are in is how to maintain some enforcement against discrimination on one hand and on the other, refrain from the crime of imposing a sense of obligatory membership in a disadvantaged group on the basis of scientifically indefensible criterion. However, it is not my intention to initiate a polemic here and I would be very grateful for a summary of the present facts of the system.

Cordially,

  
Joshua Lederberg,  
Professor of Genetics

JL/gem